



# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, May 14, 2008

## ***Electricity***

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### **AEP's 690 MW Oklaunion Coal-fired Unit in Texas Shut May 14**

According to a report filed with state regulators, the unit was shut down due to a tube leak.

<http://www2.tceq.state.tx.us/eer/main/index.cfm?fuseaction=getDetails&target=107507>

### **Southern's 870 MW Hatch Nuke Unit 2 in Georgia Ramped Up to 92 Percent by May 14**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of May 13 the unit was operating at 72 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2008/>

## ***Petroleum***

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### **Gasoline Spill After Tugboat Collides with Wharf at Tesoro's 166,000 b/d Martinez, California May 14**

A tugboat in the San Francisco Bay hit three 12-inch pipes at the refinery's Avon Wharf causing 1,500 gallons of gasoline to spill into the Bay. Company officials told reporters that they did not expect the occurrence to have an impact on refinery operations. The wharf has been removed from service in order for the Coast Guard to complete its investigation.

<http://www.oes.ca.gov/Operational/MALHaz.nsf/f1841a103c102734882563e200760c4a/cc2ff17aeb519ede88257449003f5d47?OpenDocument>

<http://www.oes.ca.gov/Operational/MALHaz.nsf/f1841a103c102734882563e200760c4a/a416ca1baf6bf2d788257449002b2f0c?OpenDocument>

Bloomberg News, 8:42 May 14, 2008

### **House and Senate Pass Bill on May 13 to Suspend SPR Oil Purchases**

Amidst concerns of record high oil prices, both the House and Senate overwhelmingly voted to suspend refilling the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) unless prices decline below \$75/bbl. On average the SPR receives 70,000 barrels daily, which is currently at 97 percent capacity.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/14/business/14oil.html>

[http://www.ogj.com/display\\_article/328643/7/ONART/none/GenIn/1/Senate,-House-approve-bills-to-suspend-SPR-oil-purchases/](http://www.ogj.com/display_article/328643/7/ONART/none/GenIn/1/Senate,-House-approve-bills-to-suspend-SPR-oil-purchases/)

## ***Natural Gas***

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### **Restart Delayed at 1 Bcf/d Independence Hub Platform in Gulf of Mexico Until Mid-June**

The Gulf of Mexico platform was shut in April after a pipeline leak was discovered. A company spokesman told reporters that after testing the repairs to the pipeline, another leak was identified requiring further repairs. The company expects to restart the platform in mid June.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN1333210520080513?sp=true>

## Other News

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### Minnesota to Mandate 20 Percent Biodiesel Blend by 2015

Governor Tim Pawlenty signed a bill on Monday increasing the amount of biodiesel to be blended in diesel fuel. The mandate will increase the current blend level of 2 percent biofuel to 20 percent by 2015. The plan will phase in B5 (5% biodiesel) by May 2009; B10 by May 2012 and B20 by May 2015. The plan includes an approval process for each blend increase to ensure adequate supplies. A key concern surrounding the use of B20 is its poor storage stability. B20 stored for a short period of time (one to three weeks) goes off-spec, becomes discolored and in some cases forms a particulate. As a result, the U.S. military bans the use or storage of any biodiesel blend for tactical military vehicles or vessels reserved for wartime use.

[http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi\\_m0CYH/is\\_25\\_6/ai\\_96058331](http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0CYH/is_25_6/ai_96058331)

[http://www.downstreamtoday.com/News/Articles/200805/Minn\\_Passes\\_Statewide\\_B\\_Mandate\\_10795.aspx](http://www.downstreamtoday.com/News/Articles/200805/Minn_Passes_Statewide_B_Mandate_10795.aspx)

### Underground Fire Contained at Dolph Colliery Mine in Pennsylvania

Mine officials stated that the Dolph Colliery Mine in Olyphant, Pennsylvania was finally contained after burning for years. Some sources have speculated that it could take 20 to 30 years for the fire to burn itself out.

[http://www.examiner.com/a-1388381%7ELong\\_burning\\_mine\\_fire\\_in\\_northeast\\_Pa\\_is\\_finally\\_contained.html](http://www.examiner.com/a-1388381%7ELong_burning_mine_fire_in_northeast_Pa_is_finally_contained.html)

## Energy Prices

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U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
May 14, 2008			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
<b>CRUDE OIL</b> <b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b> \$/Barrel	125.17	123.57	62.55
<b>NATURAL GAS</b> <b>Henry Hub</b> \$/Million Btu	11.18	11.08	7.85

Source: Reuters

## Energy Notes

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### Heavy Rains Leave 18,000 AEP-SWEPCO Customers without Power in Louisiana May 13, 10,000 Currently Without Power May 14

<http://www.shreveporttimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080514/NEWS01/80514015>

Current data as of 16:00 ET May 14, 2008, <http://www.swepco.com/news/outages/default.asp>

### Update: 3,500 Georgia Power Customers Remain Without Power in Georgia May 14

<http://www.macon.com/198/story/350347.html>

### Storms Knock Out Power to 10,000 ComEd Customers in Illinois May 13

<http://www.suntimes.com/news/metro/948483.poweroutage051308.article>

### Duke Energy Identifies Out of Service Cooling Pump as Cause of Unusual Vibrations at Oconee Nuclear Power Plant in South Carolina

<http://www.wistv.com/Global/story.asp?S=8315144>

### Mississippi Governor Vetoes Copper Theft Bill

<http://www.sunherald.com/201/story/558511.html>

## **Update: Canadian Government Approves Enbridge's Alberta Clipper and Southern Lights Pipeline Projects**

Reuters, 16:24 May 13, 2008

## **Nigerian Oil Output Falls to 1.18 Million b/d in April, Down From 2.21 Million b/d Earlier This Year**

<http://www.platts.com/Oil/News/8733929.xml?p=Oil/News&sub=Oil>

## **Gunmen Hijack Oil Service Ship in Nigeria, 11 Crew Members Held Hostage**

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080514/ap\\_on\\_re\\_af/nigeria\\_oil\\_unrest\\_3;\\_ylt=Aux7jNWcELRkvUyw.b5AnS.AsnsA](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080514/ap_on_re_af/nigeria_oil_unrest_3;_ylt=Aux7jNWcELRkvUyw.b5AnS.AsnsA)

## **Mexican President Proposes Plan to Lower Taxes on Technologically Challenging Oil Deposits**

Reuters, 11:05 May 14, 2008

## **Worker Protests Cause Delays at Panama Canal**

Reuters, 12:28 May 14, 2008

## **Links**

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*This Week in Petroleum* from the Energy Information Administration (EIA)

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/twip/twip.asp>

Updated every Wednesday.

*Weekly Petroleum Status Report* from EIA

[http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil\\_gas/petroleum/data\\_publications/weekly\\_petroleum\\_status\\_report/wpsr.html](http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil_gas/petroleum/data_publications/weekly_petroleum_status_report/wpsr.html)

Updated after 10:30 AM & 1:00 PM EST every Wednesday.

*Natural Gas Weekly Update* from EIA

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/ngw/ngupdate.asp>

Updated after 2:00 PM EST every Thursday.

### **ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY**

*Energy Assurance Daily* provides a summary of public information concerning current energy issues. Published Monday through Friday to inform stakeholders of developments affecting energy systems, flows, and markets, it provides highlights of energy issues rather than a comprehensive coverage. *Energy Assurance Daily* is updated online Monday through Friday after 5:00 p.m. EST. For more information, visit the Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration (ISER) website at:

<http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/index.aspx>.

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